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Remarks

The Applicant has carefully read and reviewed the Office Action mailed September 2, 2004, and the references cited therewith. Claims 1-9 were allowed. Claims 10, 17, and 20 were rejected. Claims 11-16, 18, and 19 were objected to. Claims 10 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11-13, and 15-18 have been amended in this response. Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are still pending.

The amendments to claims 1-9 have been made to clarify and broaden the claims. None of the amendments are narrowing amendments made for reasons of patentability.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 10, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102. Claims 10 and 20 have been canceled. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 11. Previously objected to Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the independent claim from which it once depended. None of the claim amendments add new matter.

Conclusion

Claims 1 and 11 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-9 and 12-19 are allowable as dependent claims depending from an allowable independent claim and providing additional limitations thereto. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and/or objection of claims 1-9 and 11-19 is respectfully requested.

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Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is requested.

Date:

12-21-2004

Kirk A. Cesari, Reg. No. 47,479

Seagate Technology LLC

1280 Disc Drive

Shakopee, MN 55379-1863

Telephone: 952-402-3534

Fax: 952-402-2657